

Appln. No. 09/982,689  
Amdt. dated August 1, 2003  
Reply to Office Action mailed April 1, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (Currently Amended) A seat comprising:

~~a seat plate (1) which is arranged substantially horizontally and which has at least two parts (2,3) which lie one above another in layers and are joined together and, as the upper part (2) and lower part (3) of the seat plate (1), consist of molded plywood glued together in layers and extended at least partially over the seat plate(1) a lower part (3) and an upper part (2), the upper part (2) lying on the lower part (3), the lower part (3) being glued to the upper part (2), each of the lower part (3) and the upper part (2) being made from molded plywood, the upper part (2) including a lower side, the lower part (3) including an upper side; and~~

~~two front legs (5, 6) and two rear legs (5',6') which protrude to the floor, the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') having leg extensions (50,60;50',60'), at the top of each leg;~~

~~lower leg grooves (20) incorporated by cutting on the lower side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3); and~~

~~upper leg grooves (30) integrally formed without cutting on the upper side of the lower part (3) that faces the upper part (2), wherein~~

between the lower and upper parts (2,3) of the seat plate (1), the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') of the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') are fitted in the lower and upper leg grooves (20,30).

2. (Previously Presented) The seat as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a backrest which is substantially vertical, wherein the upper part (2) and the lower part (3) extend over the entire seat plate (1) and the upper part (2) and the lower part (3) of the seat plate (1) merge integrally into the backrest (4).

*B/Cnts*

3. (Currently Amended) The seat as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the seat plate (1) includes corner regions and wherein the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') extend from the corner regions of the seat plate (1), the front legs (5,6) are each connected to one of the rear legs (5',6') thereby forming pairs, by the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') which merge into one another, and

the leg extensions are substantially angled horizontally.

4. (Previously Presented) The seat as claimed in claim 3, wherein a first front leg (5) and a first rear leg (5') form a first interconnected pair and a second front leg (6) and a second rear leg (6') form a second interconnected pair, and the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') are attached in the corner regions of the seat plate (1).

5. (Currently Amended) The seat as claimed in claim 4, wherein the seat plate (1) includes a central region and wherein the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') of

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both interconnected pairs of legs (5,6;5',6') form bows (51,61) which themselves as curved sections extend in horizontal excursions toward the central region of the seat plate (1).

6. (Previously Presented) The seat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the upper part (2) is of greater material thickness than the lower part (3).

7. (Withdrawn) The seat as claimed in claim 18, further comprising armrests (7,8) having armrest extensions (70,70';80,80') at their first and second ends;

lower armrest grooves (21) that are incorporated by cutting on the lower side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3);

upper armrest grooves (31) that are integrally formed without cutting on the upper side of the lower part (3) that faces the upper part (2), wherein

the armrest extensions (70,70';80,80') of the armrests (7,8) are fitted in the lower and upper armrest grooves (21,31) between the upper and lower parts (2,3) of the seat plate (1) and the backrest (4).

8. (Withdrawn) The seat as claimed in claim 18, further comprising armrests (7,8) which are connected to each other by a bow; an upper armrest groove (21) that is incorporated by cutting in the backrest (4), on the side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3);

a lower armrest groove (31) that is integrally formed without cutting in the backrest (4), on the side of the lower part (3) that faces the upper part (2), said lower armrest groove (31) lying in a complimentary manner with respect to the upper armrest groove (21) in the upper part (2), wherein

the bow which connects the armrests (7,8) is fitted in the upper and lower armrest grooves (21,31) between the upper and lower parts (2,3) of the seat plate (1) and the backrest (4).

*Bentall*  
9. (Currently Amended) ~~The A seat as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:~~

a seat plate (1) which is arranged substantially horizontally and which has at least a lower part (3) and an upper part (2), the upper part (2) lying on the lower part (3), the lower part (3) being glued to the upper part (2), each of the lower part (3) and the upper part (2) being made from molded plywood, the upper part (2) including a lower side, the lower part (3) including an upper side;

a backrest which is substantially vertical, wherein the upper part (2) and the lower part (3) extend over the entire seat plate (1) and the upper part (2) and the lower part (3) of the seat plate (1) merge integrally into the backrest (4);

two front legs (5, 6) and two rear legs (5',6') which protrude to the floor, the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') having leg extensions (50,60;50',60'), at the top of each leg;

lower leg grooves (20) incorporated by cutting on the lower side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3);

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upper leg grooves (30) integrally formed without cutting on the upper side of the lower part (3) that faces the upper part (2), wherein

between the lower and upper parts (2,3) of the seat plate (1), the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') of the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') are fitted in the lower and upper leg grooves (20,30);

armrests (7,8) each having securing elements (77,87) at a first end and a free-swinging elongated armrest section (79,89) extending toward a second end of each respective armrest (7,8), said elongated armrest sections (79,89) each forming an arm support for the users;

a non-continuous recess (22) that is incorporated on both sides in the backrest (4), on the side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3); and

apertures (32) which are complementary with respect to the recesses (22) on both sides in the backrest (4), in the lower part (3), wherein

the securing elements (77,87) of the armrests (7,8) are embedded in the recesses (22) and apertures (32) and are supported therein between the upper and lower parts (2,3) of the backrest (4).

10. (Currently Amended) The seat as claimed in claim 9, wherein the securing element (77,87) of each armrest (7,8) is of ~~plate-shaped geometry~~ a flat cross section, the elongated armrest section (79,89) of each armrest (7,8) merges in a bent transition (78,88) in an angled manner into a shorter supporting section (76,86) which opens into the backrest (4), each elongated armrest section (79,89) has a cross-section with a horizontal dimension and a vertical dimension, the horizontal dimension being

greater than the vertical dimension, in the bent transition (78,88) from the elongated armrest section (79,89) to the supporting section (76,86), the profile of the armrest (7,8) is rotated through 90°, thereby resulting in the supporting section (76,86) having a greater vertical dimension than horizontal dimension, and the securing element (77,87) is positioned proximately to the supporting section (76,86) and protrude above and below the supporting section.

*B/C*

11. (Previously Presented) The seat as claimed in claim 18, wherein, when seats are stacked one above another, the rear legs (5',6'), which protrude out of the seat plate (1), come to lie directly in front of the rear legs (5',6') of a respectively lower seat, the front legs (5,6) come to lie at a distance in front of the front legs (5,6) of a respectively lower seat, and space remains between the backrests (4) of stacked seats in order to provide room for a backrest cushion (40) without increasing any forwardly directed overhang of seats stacked one above another.

12. (Currently Amended) The seat as claimed in claim 9, wherein when seats which are provided with armrests (7,8) each having a free-swinging armrest section (79,89) and transitions (78,78), are stacked one above the another, the respective armrests (7,7;8,8) on one side of the seats come to lie one above another without increasing any stack height or forwardly directed overhang, and a horizontal distance (a) and a vertical offset (v) exist between respectively adjacent backrests (4,4) of seats stacked one above another thereby providing sufficient space for the

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supporting sections (76,76), the transitions (78,78) and the armrest sections (79,79) of the armrests (7,8).

13. (Withdrawn) A row connector (9) for combining a seat with a respectively adjacent seat, each seat having, front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') which protrude to the floor, the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') each being connected to leg extensions (50,60;50',60') by bending-away transitions at the top of each leg, the row connector (9) comprising

a shackle-like clip part (90), having a central section (91) from which grasping claws (92) branch off symmetrically to both sides; and

a slide (96), wherein

the grasping claws (92) are spaced from one another, such that the space is substantially equal to a distance between two rear legs (5',6') of seats placed adjacently in a row, the grasping claws (92) each having an inner configuration which corresponds to the cross section of the rear legs (5',6') proximate to the bending-away transition into the leg extensions (50',60'), and when the clip part (90) is brought into a clamping position, the clip part is releasably fixed by the slide (96), the clamping position being located proximately to the bending-away transition into the leg extensions (50',60').

14. (Withdrawn) The row connector (9) as claimed in claim 13, further comprising,

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a rail guide (93) on the clip part (90), on the inside of its central section (91) for the withdrawable reception of the sliding rail (97) of the slide (96);  
a latching contour (94) in the upper region of the row connector; and  
a clamping plate (98) attached at the top of the sliding rail (97) and having a curved recess (99) facing the grasping claws (92) for the passage therebetween of the rear legs (5',6').

15. (Withdrawn) The row connector (9) as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein an angled, elastic hook (100) which is pointed toward the central section (91) is positioned at the bottom of the sliding rail (97) and, when the slide (96) is inserted fully into the central section (91), the hook grasps the lower edge of the central section (91) from below, and a pre-defined withdrawing force is required in order to release the hook (100) again from this securing means and when the slide (96) is fully withdrawn from the central section (91), the hook (100) latches into the latching contour (94).

16. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a seat having a seat plate (1) which is arranged substantially horizontally and has at least an upper and a lower part (2,3) which lie one above another in layers and which are joined together, the upper part (2) being thicker than the lower part (3), a backrest (4) which is arranged substantially vertically and is integral with and extends from the upper and lower parts (2,3) of the seat plate (1), front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') which protrude to the floor, wherein the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') are each connected to leg extensions (50,60;50',60') at the top of each leg, lower leg grooves (20) on the lower side of the

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upper part (2), upper leg grooves (30) on the upper side of the lower part (3), comprising the steps of:

- a) cutting lower leg grooves (20) on the lower side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3);
- b) integrally forming upper leg grooves (30), without cutting, on the upper side of the lower part (3) that faces the upper part (2);
- c) placing the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') of the legs (5,6;5',6') into the lower and upper leg grooves (20,30) between the upper part (2) and lower part (3); and
- d) connecting the upper part (2) and lower part (3) in a sheet-like manner to each other.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A seat comprising:

a seat plate (1) which is arranged substantially horizontally and which has at least two parts (2,3) which lie one above another in layers and are joined together and, as the upper part (2) and lower part (3) of the seat plate (1), consist of molded plywood glued together in layers and extended at least partially over the seat plate(1) a lower part (3) and an upper part (2), the upper part (2) lying on the lower part (3), the lower part (3) being glued to the upper part (2), each of the lower part (3) and the upper

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part (2) being made from molded plywood, the upper part (2) including a lower side, the lower part (3) including an upper side;

a backrest which is substantially vertical, wherein the upper part (2) and the lower part (3) extend over the entire seat plate (1) and the upper part (2) and the lower part (3) of the seat plate (1) merge integrally into the backrest (4);

two front legs (5, 6) and two rear legs (5',6') which protrude to the floor, the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') having leg extensions (50,60;50',60'), at the top of each leg;

lower leg grooves (20) incorporated by cutting on the lower side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3); and

upper leg grooves (30) integrally formed without cutting on the upper side of the lower part (3) that faces the upper part (2), wherein

between the lower and upper parts (2,3) of the seat plate (1), the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') of the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') are fitted in the lower and upper leg grooves (20,30).

19. (Currently Amended) The seat as claimed in claim 1 or 18, further comprising a row connector (9) for combining the seat with a respectively adjacent seat, said row connector including a shackle-like clip part (90), having

a central section (91) from which grasping claws (92) branch off symmetrically to both sides; and

a slide (96), wherein

the grasping claws (92) are spaced from one another, such that the space is substantially equal to a distance between two rear legs (5',6') of seats placed adjacently in a row, each of the rear legs (5',6') having a bending-away transition, the grasping claws (92) each having an inner configuration which corresponds to the cross section of the rear legs (5',6') proximate to the bending-away transition into the leg extensions (50',60'), and

when the clip part (90) is brought into a clamping position, the clip part is releasably fixed by the slide (96), the clamping position being located proximately to the bending-away transition into the leg extensions (50',60').

*B/CSS*  
20. (Withdrawn) The method for producing a seat as claimed in claim 16, wherein the upper part (2) and the lower part (3) are glued together.

21. (Withdrawn) The method for producing a seat as claimed in claim 16, wherein the upper and lower parts (2,3) of the seat plate are made of molded plywood which is glued together in layers.

22. (Withdrawn) The method for producing a seat as claimed in claim 16, wherein the seat further includes armrests (7,8) which are connected to armrest extensions (70,70';80,80'), lower armrest grooves (21) on the lower side of the upper part (2), upper armrest grooves (31) on the upper side of the lower part (3), the method further comprising the steps of:

cutting lower armrest grooves (21) in the backrest (4) on the lower side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3);

forming upper armrest grooves (31) in the backrest (4), without cutting, on the upper side of the lower part (3) that faces the upper part (2); and

placing the armrest extensions (70,70';80,80') into the lower and upper armrest grooves (21,31) between the upper part (2) and lower part (3) of the seat plate (1).

*B/Cmtk*

23. (Withdrawn) The method for producing a seat as claimed in claim 16, wherein one front leg (5,6) and one rear leg (5',6') form an interconnected pair each having leg extensions (50, 60;50',60') which extend therefrom in the form of bows (51,61) toward the central region of the seat plate (1), the method further comprising the steps of:

cutting the lower leg grooves (20) continuously; and

forming the upper grooves (30) continuously.

24. (Withdrawn) The method for producing a seat as claimed in claim 16, wherein the seat further includes armrests (7,8) which each have a securing element (77,87) at its first end and a free-swinging armrest section (79,89) extending to its second end, a non-continuous recess (22) on both sides of the backrest (4) on the side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3), apertures (32) which are complementary with respect to the recesses (22), on both sides of the backrest (4) in the lower part (3), the method further comprising the steps of:

cutting a non-continuous recess (22) on both sides of the backrest (4) on the lower side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3);

providing apertures which are complementary with respect to the recesses, on both sides of the backrest (4) in the lower part (3); and

embedding the securing elements (77,87) of the armrests (7,8) in the recesses (22) and apertures (32) between the upper part (2) and lower part (3).

*B/C*  
25. (Withdrawn) The method for producing a seat as claimed in claim 16, wherein the seat further includes

armrests (7,8) which are connected to each other by a bow;

an upper armrest groove (21) that is incorporated by cutting in the backrest (4), on the side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3);

a lower armrest groove (31) that is integrally formed without cutting in the backrest (4), on the side of the lower part (3) that faces the upper part (2), said lower armrest groove (31) lying in a complimentary manner with respect to the upper armrest groove (21) in the upper part (2), wherein

the bow which connects the armrests (7,8) is fitted in the upper and lower armrest grooves (21,31) between the upper and lower parts (2,3) of the seat plate (1) and the backrest (4).

26. (New) A seat comprising:

a seat plate (1) which is arranged substantially horizontally and which has at least a lower part (3) and an upper part (2), the upper part (2) lying on the lower part (3), the lower part (3) being glued to the upper part (2), each of the lower part (3) and the upper part (2) being made from molded plywood, the upper part (2) including a lower side, the lower part (3) including an upper side;

two front legs (5, 6) and two rear legs (5',6') which protrude to the floor, the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') having leg extensions (50,60;50',60'), at the top of each leg;

lower leg grooves (20) incorporated by cutting on the lower side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3); and

upper leg grooves (30) integrally formed without cutting on the upper side of the lower part (3) that faces the upper part (2), wherein

between the lower and upper parts (2,3) of the seat plate (1), the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') of the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') are fitted in the lower and upper leg grooves (20,30),

the seat plate (1) including corner regions and the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') extending from the corner regions of the seat plate (1), the front legs (5,6) each connected to one of the rear legs (5',6') thereby forming pairs, by the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') which merge into one another, and the leg extensions substantially angled horizontally,

a first front leg (5) and a first rear leg (5') forming a first interconnected pair and a second front leg (6) and a second rear leg (6') forming a second

interconnected pair, and the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') attached in the corner regions of the seat plate (1),

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the seat plate (1) including a central region and the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') of both interconnected pairs of legs (5,6;5',6') forming bows (51,61) which themselves as curved sections extend in horizontal excursions toward the central region of the seat plate (1).

27. (New) A seat comprising:

a seat plate (1) which is arranged substantially horizontally and which has at least a lower part (3) and an upper part (2), the upper part (2) lying on the lower part (3), the lower part (3) being glued to the upper part (2), each of the lower part (3) and the upper part (2) being made from molded plywood, the upper part (2) including a lower side, the lower part (3) including an upper side;

a backrest which is substantially vertical, wherein the upper part (2) and the lower part (3) extend over the entire seat plate (1) and the upper part (2) and the lower part (3) of the seat plate (1) merge integrally into the backrest (4);

two front legs (5, 6) and two rear legs (5',6') which protrude to the floor, the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') having leg extensions (50,60;50',60'), at the top of each leg;

lower leg grooves (20) incorporated by cutting on the lower side of the upper part (2) that faces the lower part (3); and

upper leg grooves (30) integrally formed without cutting on the upper side of the lower part (3) that faces the upper part (2), wherein

between the lower and upper parts (2,3) of the seat plate (1), the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') of the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') are fitted in the lower and upper leg grooves (20,30),

the seat plate (1) including corner regions and the front and rear legs (5,6;5',6') extending from the corner regions of the seat plate (1), the front legs (5,6) each connected to one of the rear legs (5',6') thereby forming pairs, by the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') which merge into one another, and the leg extensions substantially angled horizontally,

  
a first front leg (5) and a first rear leg (5') forming a first interconnected pair and a second front leg (6) and a second rear leg (6') forming a second interconnected pair, and the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') attached in the corner regions of the seat plate (1),

the seat plate (1) including a central region and the leg extensions (50,60;50',60') of both interconnected pairs of legs (5,6;5',6') forming bows (51,61) which themselves as curved sections extend in horizontal excursions toward the central region of the seat plate (1).

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